

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
“RFI”

Date: August 21, 2006

Title: Electronic Health Records Deployment

Issuing / Using Agency: Governor’s Health IT Council
c/o Greg Walton
4th Floor
1111 E Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

I. INTRODUCTION

The Governor’s Health Information Technology Council (the Council) is seeking Statements of Interest (SOI) from private entities and public-private partnerships (respondents) that are qualified and experienced with electronic health records (EHR) implementation. The Council will consider responses to this Request for Information (RFI), and determine which mechanism will be most appropriate to solicit proposals for funding of innovative pilot-projects. Project proposals will be judged on their ability to drive adoption of ambulatory health records in the Commonwealth, improve interoperability of medical records, and leverage the Commonwealth’s role as a large purchaser of healthcare to lower costs. A project can address just one in depth or more broadly address all three of these criteria. Possible methods of procurement include the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, as amended (PPEA) or a more traditional Request for Proposal (RFP).

II. BACKGROUND

In November 2005 The Governor’s Task Force on Information Technology in Health Care released an interim report outlining the state of Health IT in Virginia and providing recommendations for future action. The report as well as many of the other materials mentioned in this document are available online at [<https://www.ehealth.vi.virginia.gov/>].

Governor Warner, acting on the recommendations of the Task Force, included funding in his proposed 2006-2008 biennial budget to encourage the adoption of electronic health records. The General Assembly funded the initiative to the level of \$1.5 million and called for the creation of a Governor’s Advisory Committee on Health IT (the first recommendation of the Warner Task Force).

Governor Kaine has issued Executive Order 29 to implement the General Assembly’s budget language and create a mechanism for distributing the \$1.5 million in funding designated for “encouraging the adoption of electronic health records throughout the Commonwealth.” E.O. 29 creates the Health Information Technology Council and names the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources and of Technology as the Co-

Chairs. Full membership will be released soon after this RFI. The Council will determine which projects solicited following this RFI process deserve funding and which method of procurement would be most advantageous to both the Commonwealth and the respondents.

III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSES

Respondents should submit a concise SOI not exceeding ten pages that demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues associated with ambulatory EHR adoption, interoperability, and leveraging buying power to control costs. It should also present an innovative concept for a public-private partnership between a vendor and a community group that could include hospitals, physician groups, local government, and any other entities designed to solve at least one of the three issues raised in this RFI. The SOI should include the following:

1. A brief statement of interest in pursuing such a project with funding from the Council
2. An outline of proposed action, partners, and funding required, as well as a brief description of how it will solve the business problem presented; and
3. Identify topics or issues with implementing a project not identified by this RFI that respondents believe are important to address in any future RFP / PPEA proposal and offer input on those topics or issues.

The Council is not requesting a detailed proposal, specific budgetary plans, or proprietary information in response to this RFI. However, the Council staff will conduct a dialogue with respondents as well as seek out more information in support of the response. As part of the dialogue process suggestions for improving responses may be given to respondents by staff. Updated responses will be accepted up until the deadline. Therefore, early responses are encouraged.

SOI's shall be returned by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time, Friday, September 15, 2006, by mail or electronically. Electronic responses are preferred and should be addressed to: HealthIT@governor.virginia.gov. Include **Health IT RFI Response** in the subject line. Non-electronic responses will also be accepted. Please send to:

Office of Health IT
Fourth Floor
Attn: Greg Walton
1111 E Broad St
Richmond, VA 23219

There will be an information conference for respondents in Richmond on August 31st. Details will be available online soon. Electronic inquiries are preferred at HealthIT@governor.virginia.gov, however, respondents may also call the Office of Health IT, at 804-692-2543 for additional information.

The Council plans to complete its evaluation of these proposals by October 15th and may begin the solicitation process at that time.

IV. THE COUNCIL'S RIGHTS RESERVED

The Council reserves all rights available to it by Federal and State law. Moreover, if a PPEA solicitation results from this RFI and the resulting responses, respondents to this RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses may be used in the resulting solicitation. Therefore, do not submit any copyrighted, proprietary or confidential information.

Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and submitted to the Council, pursuant to the RFI, shall belong exclusively to the Council and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The intent of this RFI is to seek SOI's only; therefore, responses will not be considered to be a binding bid or proposal. If the Council decides to solicit an RFP, those parties who choose not to respond to this RFI will not be denied participation in the RFP.

Under no circumstances shall the Commonwealth, the Governor's Office, or the Council be liable for, or reimburse, the costs incurred by respondents, whether or not the Council, in its sole discretion, chooses to solicit proposals under the PPEA or RFP for this project.